



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005
Committee Statement
LB 546

Hearing Date: February 22, 2005

Committee On: Banking, Commerce and Insurance

Introducer(s): (Brown, Bourne, Burling, Byars, Cornett, Foley, Friend, Hudkins, Jensen, Johnson, Kopplin, Kremer, Mines, Pahls, Dw. Pedersen, D. Pederson, Price, Schimek, Smith, Stuhr, Thompson, Wehrbein)

Title: Adopt the Nebraska Opportunity Zone Act and create the Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- X Advanced to General File
 - Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

6	Yes	Senators Mines, Redfield, Flood, Jensen, Langemeier, Pahls
	No	
1	Present, not voting	Senator Louden
1	Absent	Senator Johnson

Proponents:

Senator Pam Brown
Bruce Bohrer
R.J. Baker
Ron Withem
Thomas McDonald

Randy Lenhoff
Fred Uhe
Walt Radcliffe
Robert Fricke

Representing:

Introducer
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
Elkhorn Valley Economic Development Council
University of Nebraska
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Unemed Corporation
Seldin Company
Sarpy County Board of Commissioners
NE Realtors Association
Self

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

W. Cecil Steward

Representing:

Joslyn Castle Institute for Sustainable Communities

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 546 (Brown, Bourne, Burling, Byars, Cornett, Foley, Friend, Hudkins, Jensen, Johnson, Kopplin, Kremer, Mines, Pahls, Dw. Pedersen, D. Pederson, Price, Schimek, Smith, Stuhr, Thompson, Wehrbein) would enact the Nebraska Opportunities Zone Act for the purpose of realizing the opportunity for business expansion, economic development, job creation, and education-business partnerships in the Interstate 80 corridor by encouraging regional cooperation in which the communities, businesses, and educational entities in the corridor work together to pursue common goals within opportunity zones.

The bill would provide for creation of the Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission as the Interstate 80 corridor opportunity zone commission for eastern Nebraska between Lincoln and Omaha.

The bill would provide, section by section, as follows:

Section 1 would provide for citation to a new named act: the Nebraska Opportunities Zone Act.

Section 2 would provide for legislative findings regarding the Interstate 80 corridor and also encouragement for the Department of Economic Development to work with interested parties within the corridor to create opportunity zones similar to the one established for Omaha to Lincoln in section 7 of the bill.

Sections 3 and 4 would provide for duties and responsibilities for an opportunity zone commission, including the hiring of an executive director.

Section 5 would provide for powers of an opportunity zone commission, including appointing nonvoting members, obtaining advisors, and creating task forces of noncommission members; issuing reports, recommendations, or other communications; applying for gifts, grants, contributions, and other funds from the federal government, private agencies, affiliated associations and individuals; and contracting with public and private groups to conduct its business.

Section 6 would provide for an annual report to be transmitted to the Governor and the Legislature.

Section 7 would provide for creation of the Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission as the Interstate 80 corridor opportunity zone commission for eastern Nebraska between Omaha and Lincoln.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Senator Mick Mines, Chairperson